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## *The Shaman Meets With the Man in the Moon*

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# The Shaman Meets

## With the Man in the Moon

by

Joseph Murphy

I grasp rungs of light ascending from a lilac's bud.

Passing the seven-colored mountain's peak,  
I draw a dreamer's fingers from my drum's skin:  
Through them,  
Reach the final rung.

Guided by my ancestors' marks, I step  
Through a maze  
As others would a stream.

One of my spirits hisses free before The Gate of Bones.

The bolts groan beneath that spirit's bloodied fins:  
Hinges splinter;  
The dark's gnarled echo  
Recedes.

I pass through and perch on a spoke of light.

The Man in the Moon greets me;  
Offers a silken thread  
Linked to all the souls I am to return  
To body and breath.

When I take it in my beak, I awake  
In a pine's topmost limbs  
Knowing the fullness  
Of my fate.